

UW-LA CROSSE 4TH ANNUAL

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK

**THERE'S MORE
TO THE STORY**
Elevating Silenced Voices
April 1-5, 2019

PROGRAM

SPONSORED BY THE UW-LA CROSSE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Monday, April 1, 2019

12:00-1:30 p.m.

**Brown Bag Lunch 1
Room 2130, Student Union**

Implementing Restorative Justice in the UWL Community
Amanda Abrahamson and Rachel Ross (Residence Life)

Restorative Justice, as a practice, places a strong emphasis on community and the way individuals impact a community. Join us as we talk about what restorative justice is and how we can each be more restorative in the way that we approach different situations.

2:30-3:45 p.m.

**Panel Session 1
Room 3310, Student Union**

Is There More to Media? Undergraduate Research on Media, Identity and Marginalized Voices

Evan Brody and Students: Mike Field, Kaylee Mulholland, Aaron Ramthun, Sam Stroozas (Communication Studies)

Calling attention to the marginalization of voices within mediated contexts is of key concern to critical media studies scholars. On this panel, undergraduate students from CST 419: Media and Identity will present findings from their course research projects. All of these papers are aimed at better understanding how identities are elevated or excluded within media content and the student panelists will present their findings and discuss their experience researching media representations of marginalized populations.

Room 3314, Student Union

Giving Voice to Preservice Teachers, So They Can Give to Others
J. Scott Baker and students (Educational Studies)

Preservice teachers in the Educational Studies department present undergraduate research articles addressing various issues surrounding social justice: mental health, community involvement, special education, poverty, school safety, achievement, diversity, and others with/in the PK-12 school system as well as teacher training here on the UW-L campus. Presenters will discuss their own research results and open the discussion to a Q&A with the audience.

Monday, April 1, 2019

4:00-5:30 p.m.

**Research Session 1
Room 2102, Centennial Hall**

**Supporting Immigrant Voices in Education, Business and Our Community:
Understanding the Role of Legal Policy, Labor Economics, and the Journey from
Immigrant to Co-workers**

Christa Kiersch, Danny Franklin, and Nicole Gullekson (Management)

Immigrants represent a critical contribution to the U.S. labor force, yet their rights as employees may be limited and their voices silenced by others' discrimination and bias. This session will include conversation with a local immigration lawyer and advocate, intended to increase our collective knowledge of the true impact of foreign-born workers on our economy as well as our understanding of the journeys immigrants may take to becoming an employee or co-worker.

Room 2102, Centennial Hall

**Building Sexual Assault Awareness and Advocacy into the Professional and Technical
Writing Curriculum**

Bryan Kopp and Lindsay Steiner (English)

This session showcases how students enrolled in Introduction to Professional and Technical Writing (ENG 335) explored the topic of intimate partner violence at UWL and sought to empower students as "upstanders," advocating for survivors and, by extension, other marginalized identities. After examining existing awareness campaigns, students created prototypes, made recommendations, and provided feedback that can improve campus communications related to sexual violence.

5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Plenary Session 1
Room 1300, Centennial Hall
(Hall of Nations)**

**Pride Center Ally Workshop
*Pride Center Staff***

One does not identify as an ally; instead, one lives as one. Allies must be active and visible. The Pride Center will share with you an educational workshop on LGBTQIAAP+ identities, issues facing the community, intersectionality, & how to understand privilege and combat oppression.

Monday, April 1, 2019

7:30-9:00 p.m.

**Keynote Speaker:
Graff Main Hall, Hesprich Auditorium (Rm. 260)**

Elevating Silenced Voices: Fat is a Social Justice Issue, Too

*Laurie Cooper Stoll, Associate Professor of Sociology and Founding Director of the
UWL Institute for Social Justice*

Empirical evidence continues to show that like other historically marginalized groups, fat people experience discrimination in employment, education, the media, politics, interpersonal relationships, and especially healthcare. Yet, despite the fact that fatphobia in the U.S. has always been intimately connected to other systems of oppression like sexism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, and classism, those of us who do social justice work so often exclude it from our research and our activism. We fail to acknowledge that fat is a social justice issue, too. In this presentation, I will provide a brief history of the ways fat has been pathologized and medicalized in the U.S. I will then discuss some of the ways fat is connected with gender, race, and class in particular. Finally, I will offer some strategies for engaging in fat activism.

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

12:00-1:30 p.m.

**Brown Bag Lunch 2
Room 2130, Student Union**

Women of Color Faculty and Staff: Intersectional Identities and Experiences

Sara Docan-Morgan (moderator; Communication Studies), Amanda Goodenough (Director of the Research and Resource Center for Campus Climate), Mahruq Khan (Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies), Uttara Manohar (Communication Studies), Gita Pai (History), and Lee Xiong (Upward Bound)

The voices of faculty and staff who identify as women of color are often unheard, and their stories remain unknown to the wider campus and administration. In an effort to redress the silencing of these voices and to bridge gaps between women in various university roles, this panel brings together multiple UWL faculty and staff who identify as women of color. They will discuss the unique experiences, challenges, and opportunities presented to them as a result of their intersectional identities, as well as envision the support needed to make UWL a more equitable place of work for all people.

2:00-3:45 p.m.

**Panel Session 2
Room 3310, Student Union**

Include me! Include me! Modeling Assessments for an Inclusive Classroom

Ashley Zehner and students (Educational Studies)

Attendees at this interactive presentation will experience different types of assessments that can be applied in a general education classroom promoting inclusion in order to meet the needs of all students. Attendees will have the opportunity to experience different types of assessment that they can utilize in their own classrooms through hands-on lessons taught by undergraduate students in the School of Education.

Room 3314, Student Union

Shakespearean Social Justice

Natalie Eschenbaum, Rebekah Fowler, Ryan Friesen, and Lalita Hogan (English)

As a famous and celebrated "dead white male," Shakespeare has a lot of power in our culture. Sometimes students quickly dismiss him as a misogynist racist, but when instructors push them to analysis and engagement, instead of dismissal, they discover a very different Shakespeare: one who can be used to make arguments against misogynistic and racist thinking in our contemporary time. Each roundtable leader will demonstrate how this canonical icon can be--indeed, must be--read as a means to see positive social change in the world. Our examples will lead to a broader discussion about the place of literary study in the "Diversity and Inclusion" pillar of UWL's strategic plan.

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

4:00-5:30 p.m.

**Research Session 2
Room 3310, Student Union**

Philosophy & Social Justice

Mary Krizan, Sam Cocks and Eric Kraemer (Philosophy)

In this session we will examine the myriad intersections between philosophy and social justice: how philosophers of language offer a number of ways to think about words and sentence structure, while looking closely at a couple of theories in the philosophy of language and applying them to address questions about the role of language in promoting social justice; consider how Buddhist philosophy offers us the resources to dismantle those social structure that result in exclusivity and are insufficiently inclusive; and finally, think about social justice for refugees and immigrants would require of all of us.

Room 3314, Student Union

**The Erasure of Women's Voices in Contemporary Cultural Production:
International Perspectives**

Rose Brougham, Anna V. Keefe, and Omar Granados (Global Cultures and Languages)

This panel explores the ways in which women in contemporary Argentina, Cuba, France, and French-speaking Africa have resisted censorship and male dominance in their societies. The presenters will discuss examples from film, literature and popular music to show how race, social class, and creativity can become strongholds of resistance against macho attitudes and gender discrimination.

5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Plenary Session 2
Room 1400, Centennial Hall**

**From Clarence Thomas to #MeToo: Causes, Consequences, and Change in
Workplace Sexual Harassment**

*Dr. Amy Blackstone, Professor in Sociology and the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the
University of Maine*

Co-sponsored by the Sociology Club

Sexual assault and harassment have recently gained national attention because of the Kavanaugh Supreme Court hearing and the #MeToo movement. Amy Blackstone, PhD, whose research has been featured in the *New York Times* and on NBC News, will share her expertise on this topic. She will discuss how U.S. culture and the way organizations are structured subtly encourage the likelihood of sexual misconduct, as well as its effects and what it will take to solve this social problem.

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

7:30-9:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker
Graff Main Hall, Hesprich Auditorium (Rm. 260)

“Gay and Muslim: How I Became Tucker Carlson’s Worst Nightmare”

Blair Imani

Author, Activist and Executive Director of Equality for HER

(co-sponsored by the Pride Center and CAB)

Blair Imani is Black, Queer, and Muslim. She is the author of Modern HERstory: Stories of Women and Nonbinary People Rewriting History, which tells the stories of 70 contemporary heroes who are changing the world. She is the founder and Executive Director of Equality for HER, a nonprofit educational platform for women and nonbinary people, and has been honored as part of the #Woke100 by ESSENCE in 2018, and 25 Gen-Z'ers creating change in the world by NYLON.

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

12:00-1:30 p.m.

**Brown Bag Session 3
Room 3310, Student Union**

Stomp Out Stigma!

Counseling and Testing and Student Life: Wellness & Health Advocacy

Join the conversation about mental health! Stomp Out Stigma is an annual event that brings together UWL students to hear about their lived experiences with mental illness. The event is a student-led panel discussion to raise awareness, reduce stigma, educate, and provide support for those who are coping with mental health concerns on our campus community. Join us, and be a part of the change.

2:30-3:45 p.m.

**Panel Session 3
Room 3110, Student Union**

Can You Speak My Language? Linguistic Considerations in Social Justice

Heather Linville (TESOL), Kimberly Morris, and Megan Strom (Global Cultures and Languages)

Language is an integral part of social justice! Come learn from three panelists how it plays a role healthcare, schools, and higher education. Each presenter will highlight connections and ways to take action.

Room 3310, Student Union

Adventure Initiatives to Build Community

Rafael Ramirez (Exercise and Sports Science), Kate Evans (Recreation Management & Therapeutic Recreation), Carla Hacker (Institute for Professional Studies in Education), Jenna Starck (Exercise and Sports Science), and Thomas Mickschl (Exercise and Sports Science)

During this dynamic and interactive presentation, we will share adventure initiatives to build community. Experiential educators from several departments will share their favorite initiatives to break the ice and to make people feel welcome to a place of mutual respect and good intentions, where all the voices can be heard. Join us for some learning and fun.

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

4:00-5:30 p.m.

**Research Session 3
Room 3110, Student Union**

Learning to Listen Rhetorically: Lessons from English 497
Virginia Crank, English

Public discourses about race are around us every day, and many raced-white people feel helpless to contribute. Guilt, fear, and concern about offending people may prevent productive conversations. But what if we start by thinking not about what we *say* but how we *listen*? By studying the theory of rhetorical listening, students in ENG 497 learned how to engage in public discourses around race by learning to “decenter,” to “eavesdrop,” and to be okay with being disturbed. I’ll share some of the strategies we studied and some of the ways students applied rhetorical listening to popular culture, art, and social media.

Room 3310, Student Union

Elevating Immigrant Voices in Spanish-Language Media
Megan Strom (Global Cultures and Languages) and students

Do the media promote or silence immigrants? Are there any differences between the ways the media in other countries portray immigrants? Our presentation demonstrates how news stories from seven different countries help empower or silence immigrant voices across the world.

5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Plenary Session 3
Room 1400, Centennial Hall**

HR & #MeToo: The Roles, Opportunities and Obligations of Human Resources Practitioners in Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
Christa Kiersch, Yeonka Kim, Danny Franklin, Nicole Gullekson and Austin Haas (Management)

Sexual assault and sexual harassment in the workplace remain a serious problem, highlighted in social media and beyond through the recent #MeToo movement. Human resource (HR) departments are often tasked with 'handling' such issues, but what can (or should) HR be doing to more proactively fight sexual harassment and promote gender equality for employees? This panel will tackle this challenging question from the perspectives of local HR professionals and a range of UWL faculty with relevant expertise.

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

**Room 1300, Centennial Hall
(Hall of Nations)**

Examining Social Justice in PK-12 Education

Jenn Kosiak (Mathematics and Statistics) and teachers from the School District of La Crosse

Local educators from the School District of La Crosse will share their research projects focused on social inequalities in education. These poster presentations will emphasize raising an awareness of discrimination and privilege and their impact on school culture and achievement in PK-12 education. Teachers will also share impactful strategies for advocating for equity and social justice in education.

7:30-9:00 p.m.

Keynote Speakers

Hesprich Auditorium, Graff Main Hall (Rm. 260)

A Place at the Table

UWL Students

Many departments and offices across campus struggle to find ways to support underrepresented students. This event provides an opportunity for faculty, staff, administration and students to hear the needs of underrepresented students in the UWL community. Students from multiple student organizations are coming together to share knowledge and experiences, and invite the community to do more than listen, but come together to create change.

Thursday, April 4, 2019

12:00-1:30 p.m.

**Brown Bag Session 4,
Room 2130, Student Union**

Hate/Bias Community Circle

(Amanda Abrahamson and Rachel Ross, Residence Life)

Have you been impacted in some way by hate or bias incidents on or off campus? Are you struggling to find ways to reach out and connect with others who have been impacted? Join us as we hold a space for folx to gather to talk about the impact these incidents have had on them and ways in which we can move forward together as a community.

2:30-3:45 p.m.

**Panel Session 4
Room 3110, Student Union**

Advocating for Equity: Creating an Inclusive UWL Community for All

Members of JMAC (Joint Multicultural Affairs Committee)

Participants will learn what it means to be sensitive to diversity, in particular related to racial and ethnic issues, in the UWL community and engage in meaningful conversations with UWL community members. They will also learn about resources and ways to support all members of the UWL community toward equity and inclusion.

Room 3314, Student Union

Peer Education and the Exploitation of Student Labor

Kab Vue (Student Affairs Administration), Dani Kallis, Mirm Hurula and Amber West

This discussion will include an analysis of university accountability to their own diversity mission statements, and the way that they may put responsibility of “diversity work” onto other people rather than see diversity work as a collective effort. We will also talk about how administrators and faculty therefore push the work on students to 1) teach in and outside of their classrooms and 2) to be exploited by overworked and underpaid work. This discussion will encompass the work of student activists as they work to create a more inclusive campus for themselves and for students who come after them.

4:00-5:30 p.m.

**Research Session 4
Room 3110, Student Union**

Negative Impacts of Expanding Public Employee Religious Accommodation

Jim Szymalak, Political Science and Public Administration

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Most citizens generally support legal protections for religious expression, but often this support is without a full understanding of what constitutes religion. For example, few realize that veganism, or even white supremacist teachings, have been legally recognized as religion. Current efforts to expand religious accommodation could have serious negative impacts on the rights of third parties, and this session briefly addresses these challenges within the context of government services.

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Exhibit*: Opening Reception and Panel
Language Resource Center, Graff Main Hall, Third Floor**

The Lost Voices of Mariel: The Cuban Refugee Program at Fort McCoy (Opening Reception & Panel Discussion)

The Institute of Latin American and Latino Studies and the Department of Global Cultures and Languages

This opening to the *Uprooted: The 1980 Cuban Refugee Program at Fort McCoy* is a panel featuring five refugees with one interpreter followed by an informal reception and Q&A. The *Uprooted* exhibit explores how Fort McCoy became a refugee compound where over 14,000 Cuban exiles were screened and detained as they awaited potential sponsorship from Wisconsin organizations and families. Photographs from these months at Fort McCoy featured in the exhibit offer reasons to investigate the discriminatory contexts where young migrants were convicted, ostracized, or simply misunderstood. We bring these photographs and artifacts to the public light (courtesy of the *La Crosse Tribune*, The Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Special Collections Archives at UW-La Crosse Murphy Library) primarily as a respectful tribute to the refugees at Fort McCoy.

* SJW attendees are welcome to browse the exhibit throughout the week.

5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Plenary Session 4
Room 1300, Centennial Hall
(Hall of Nations)**

“What Would You Get on the Bus For?": What the Freedom Riders Teach Us About America's Future

BJ Hollars, Associate Professor of English, University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire

In the summer of 1961, rides—both black and white—boarded interstate buses to test a pair of Supreme Court rulings related to interstate travel. For their efforts, they were beaten, fire-bombed and imprisoned. Fifty-five years later, author BJ Hollars retraced portions of their harrowing journey in an attempt to learn the Freedom Riders' personal stories. Join Hollars for a reading and conversation on how the Freedom Riders' lessons can help us forge a brighter future.

Thursday, April 4, 2019

7:30-9:00 p.m.

**Keynote Speaker
Room 3310, Student Union**

La Crosse Reads Presents: Mai Der Vang

Mai Der Vang is the author of *Afterland* (Graywolf Press, 2017), which recounts the Hmong exodus from Laos and the fate of thousands of refugees seeking asylum. The book received the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets. She is currently a visiting writer at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Mai Der Vang will also offer a poetry reading, cosponsored by La Crosse Reads, Cia Siab, Inc. and the Wisconsin Humanities Council on **Thursday April 4th from 4:00-5:00 (Room 3310, Student Union)** followed by a reception (**Room 3105, Student Union**) and a book-signing at 6:30 (**Bookstore, Student Union**). All SJW attendees are welcome at these events.

Friday, April 5, 2019

12:00-2:15 p.m.

**Film Screening
Room 1400, Centennial Hall**

Movie Screening: *More Than a Word*

More Than A Word analyzes the Washington football team and their use of the derogatory term R*dskins. Using interviews from both those in favor of changing the name and those against, *More Than a Word* presents a deeper analysis of the many issues surrounding the Washington team name. The documentary also examines the history of Native American cultural appropriation. The film will be followed by a brief discussion, moderated by members of the Institute for Social Justice Advisory Committee.

2:30-3:45 p.m.

**Research Session 5
Room 3314, Student Union**

Contradiction in the NCAA's Mascot Ban Discourse: Striking a Middle Ground
Kate Lavelle (Communication Studies)

Representation of Native American nations and people has been a critical social justice issue in sports for decades. In 2005, the NCAA implemented a policy designed to provide "a middle ground" to win over fans and critics of these mascots (Lederman, 2005). By using a communication studies approach, this presentation will examine how this policy promotes inequity.

Beyond Locker-Room Talk: Women's Responses to Gender Discrimination in Outdoor Recreation

Kate Evans (Recreation Management & Therapeutic Recreation)

The purpose of this presentation is to explore professional female athlete's experiences of gender discrimination in outdoor recreation and, more importantly, *their response to those experiences*. In an era in which "locker room talk" is cited as justification at the highest levels for vulgar and sexually explicit discourse and assumed male dominance, the athletes' responses conform to broad cultural expectations, but demand investigation and understanding.

4:00-5:30 p.m.

**Closing Reception
Room 3110, Student Union**